

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of ensuring that an IMS database and a description for said
2 IMS database, are synchronized, wherein said description is stored in a data
3 management block, the method comprising:

4 storing a copy of said description, used to load said database, within said
5 database, wherein said copy is maintained in said database;
6 before accessing said database, comparing said copy of the said description
7 with said description stored in said data management block; and
8 determining whether said copy of said description and said description stored
9 in said data management block are synchronized.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said comparing step occurs before
2 each access to said database.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said copy of the database description
2 is stored within said database as one or more database records.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said one or more database records are
2 stored in said database in a unique location which is dependent on said database's
3 organization.

1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of taking
2 responsive action if said copy of the description and said description stored in said
3 data management block are not synchronized.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein said responsive action includes
2 alerting a user of a problem with said description.

1 7. The method of claim 5, wherein said responsive action includes
2 suspending further activity with regard to said database.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein said further activity is suspended until
2 said descriptions become synchronized.

1 9. The method of claim 5, wherein said comparing step occurs before
2 each access to said database.

1 10. The method of claim 5, wherein said copy of the database description
2 is stored within said database as one or more database records.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein said one or more database records
2 are stored in said database in a unique location which is dependent on said database's
3 organization.

1 12. The method of claim 9, wherein said responsive action includes
2 alerting a user of a problem with said description.

1 13. The method of claim 9, wherein said responsive action includes
2 suspending further activity with regard to said database.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein said further activity is suspended
2 until said descriptions become synchronized.

1 15. The method of claim 10, wherein said responsive action includes
2 alerting a user of a problem with said description.

1 16. The method of claim 10, wherein said responsive action includes
2 suspending further activity with regard to said database.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein said further activity is suspended
2 until said descriptions become synchronized.

1 18. A program storage media readable by a machine and containing
2 instructions for performing the method contained in claim 1.